

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 10 are pending herein. Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly recite the subject matter of the present invention. Support for the amendments to claim 1 is found in the specification at page 15, lines 4-20. No new matter has been added. In light of the amendments to the claims and following remarks, Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims.

Claims 1-4, 6 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Polifke et al. Applicants traverse each of these rejections, in turn, for at least the reasons stated below.

The present invention, as recited in amended independent claim 1 is directed to a loading device for loading a web forming wire, said loading device comprising: a fixed base member; a movable loading member coupled to said base member, said loading member structured and arranged to move in a vertical fashion relative to said base member to thereby apply a loading force to said wire; at least one flexible belt joined to the loading member and to the base member; means for introducing a pressure medium into a space defined by said at least one flexible belt, said loading member and said base member below said movable loading member to generate said vertical movement of said loading member; roller means including at least one roller structured and arranged to support said loading member such that the force generated against said loading member by said wire is directed against a side of said roller whereby jamming of said loading member is prevented; and wherein said at least one roller is coupled to said base member by a rotating shaft to enable the rotation of said roller.

The invention of Polifke is a twin-wire former for the production of a web of paper or

board. The Examiner asserts in the Office Action at 2 that Polifke discloses the present invention in Figures 10 and 11 of that reference. According to the Examiner, the moveable loading member of the present invention reads on elements 9J and 27A of Fig. 10, singly or in combination; elements 9K and 27A, singly or in combination of Fig. 11; that the base member of the present invention reads on elements 57/58 in Fig. 10 and 57A and 57B in Fig. 11; and the means for introducing pressure medium to generate vertical movement reads of element 24A in Figs. 10 and 11.

Figs 10 and 11 disclose projections that secure the plates against which the wires travel. Elements 9J and 27A are a plate and ledge, respectively. According to the specification of Polifke,

The plate is supported on a rigid water-permeable plate 26 via ledges 27A and compression springs 24A (the spring force of which is adjustable) or via pneumatic pressure cushions. Following plate 9A in the direction of travel of the web there are several ledges 27 (of, for instance, approximately rectangular cross section) which are pressed resiliently from below against the bottom wire 11. For this purpose they are supported, for instance via compression springs (or via pneumatic pressure cushions), on the rigid water-permeable plate 26. It is obvious that the force of the compression springs 24 (or the pressure prevailing in the pressure cushions) can be adjusted individually at each individual ledge 27. A preferred construction of the ledges 27 and of their vertical guidance is described in DE 40 19 884 which is equivalent to U.S. Pat. No. 5,078,835. The following alternative is not shown: The ledges 27 rest on a flexible plate which is supported by a plurality of pneumatic pressure cushions. Column 4, line 65 to Column 5, line 14.

Clearly, Polifke relies on US 5,078,835 for the preferred construction of ledges. US '835 discloses a ledge for resiliently supporting a paper making machine wire. Upon review of the specification and drawings of US '835, it is clear that there is absolutely no disclosure in that reference of having a flexible belt joining the loading member and the base member, as in the

present invention. Accordingly, neither Polifke, nor US '835, anticipate the present invention, and, thus, the rejection under §102(b) should be withdrawn and the application be forwarded to issue.

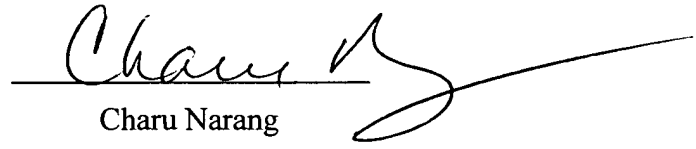
In addition, there is absolutely no teaching or suggestion in Polifke that the ledges should be modified to include a flexible belt member joining the loading member and the base member. Accordingly, the present invention is not obvious in view of Polifke, and, thus, the rejection under §103(a) should be withdrawn, and the application be forwarded to issue.

An early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner for Patents is specifically authorized to charge any necessary fees in excess of the amount enclosed herewith to Deposit Account No. 50-0518 in the name of Steinberg & Raskin, P.C.

Respectfully submitted,

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